

Of Interest to Women.

Miss May Robson as She Has Various Appeared—The Lady Principal of Vassar—The Hand Read of Miss Lily Devereux Blake.

LENTEN LABOR TALKS.

The Working Girls' Clubs and Social Reform Club Arrange to Discuss the Situation.

The directors of the New York Association of Working Girls' Clubs have arranged a series of Lenten conferences for the non-wage-earners who are interested in associations for the improvement of the mental, moral and physical condition of working girls. The conferences are held Tuesday afternoons at 2 o'clock at the "Thirty-eighth Street Working Girls' Club, No. 222 West Thirty-eighth street. The object is to discuss the best methods of conducting clubs and the relation of working girls clubs to labor problems. Miss Virginia Potter is secretary of the committee in charge of the programme which runs like this: February 24, "How to Increase Club Membership and Keep It"; March 3, "Trade Unions"; March 10, "Strikes"; March 17, "Remedies, and the Eight-Hour Day"; March 24, "The Unemployed"; March 31, "Utilization of Club Rooms."

On the third Wednesday of each month the members of the New York Association of Working Girls' Clubs are invited to meet at the rooms of one of the clubs in the association, to listen to addresses on topics of special interest to wage-earning women. The last meeting was held at the Second Street Working Girls' Society, No. 6 Second street. Factory laws was the subject of the discussion. Mr. McKay, chief of the New York district staff of factory inspectors, spoke on what a State official can do to improve conditions, and how the women in factories can co-operate with the inspector. Miss Anne W. Winsor talked about the different laws in various States, and some amendments that are needed. Miss Lillian W. Ward, head worker at the Nurses' Settlement, spoke on sanitary conditions in workshops and how the working women may help in improving them. The next conference will be held at the Endeavor Club's house, No. 59 Morton street, March 18, at 8 o'clock. The subject will be "Remedies." Mrs. Frederick Nathan will talk about the work of the Consumers' League. There will also be speakers to tell about consumers' circles, union labels and various other remedies recommended by workmen. The Association of Working Girls' Clubs has about four thousand members, but only about one hundred can be accommodated at the club rooms. The meetings therefore are open only to club members.

A series of public conferences is being held under the auspices of the women of the Social Reform Club, at the club rooms, No. 28 East Fourth street, on the third Friday evening of each month. At these meetings labor problems are discussed from different points of view, the trades unionist, the economist, the employer, the working woman, being represented usually.

The topic for March 29 is "The Eight-Hour Work Day." The speakers will be Miss Alice L. Woodbridge, secretary of the Working Women's Society; Professor Brooks, of Harvard University, and Mr. J. W. Sullivan, a member of Typographical Union No. 6.

DEMAUNY-TALVANDE'S LECTURE.

That the large and fashionable audience that gathered at the Waldorf yesterday afternoon to hear M. de Mauny-Talvande's lecture was not on geographical knowledge was scarcely probable. The subject was Upper Normandy, and most of the audience had already dipped at Dieppe, walked on the cliffs at Etretat and lounged on the beach at Trouville. It was, however, both pleasurable and profitable to listen to M. de Mauny-Talvande's French, which he made as distinct and easy as possible for his American audience.

The object of these lectures appeals to every one. They are for the benefit of Working Boys' Clubs in the villages of France. The transportation of the idea from this country to France is a compliment to our institutions, and has enlisted many people. The principal promoter is Mr. Charles Hammond Gibson, a young man of leisure from Boston, who chooses to devote his money and time to this purpose. Among those who assisted at the lecture were Mr. and Mrs. George H. Hughes, Mrs. J. A. Burden, Mrs. Eugene de Biols, Mrs. William H. Osgood, Mrs. Edward Lauterbach, Mrs. Lydia Perry, Mrs. Jules Reynal, Mrs. Joseph Hartman, Mrs. William R. Thorne, Mrs. Joseph Stickney, Mrs. J. C. Wilmerding, Mrs. W. C. Schenck, Mrs. Fred Rhineland Jones, Mrs. Greenville Winthrop, Messrs. Frank Otis, Eugene Kelly, Albert Morris Bugby and Major Pond.

"Our Johnnie sneaked two spoons from the ice-cream man's barrow."
"Indeed! What did you mother say?"
"O, nothing! She was wantin' spoons!"
Phil May.

Good-looking Young Doctor (feeling pulse of Pretty Patient)—H'm, yes; soon put that right. You want me for long.
Pretty Patient—Oh! there's—there's no hurry, doctor, Maurice Grieffenhagen.

TUCKS AND RUFFLES LINGER.



Notwithstanding the continued statements that women have abandoned skirts, women love their tucks and ruffles, and to these they will cling, let the reformers make as much talk as they will. Not even silk petticoats have dislodged these. Some women, many women, may extol the advantages of ditches, but thousands find the lingerie the most tempting display the big shops make. The dear old lady who bade her son beware, for she had discovered that his fiancée wore colored silk underwear is not without prototypes in spite of the march of progress.

This season fine Valenciennes lace and embroidered fellis seem to share the honors. Lace and tiny ribbons tied up into bows are bewitching and quite sure to touch the feminine heart. But even Valenciennes suffers from home laundering, and wise women reserve it for festive days. Philadelphia has a new lace with embroidered edge are scarcely less billowy and feminine, yet they can be trusted to endure while the garment lasts.

MR. GEORGE KUNTZ'S GEM TEST.

According to the statement made by Mr. Kuntz, who is an authority on precious stones, one need not take their diamonds to jewellers to find out their worth, but expose them to sun or electric light for five minutes, then shut them up in the hand and go into a dark closet. On opening the hand, if the stones let forth a phosphorous light, they are genuine, if not, little more than glass.

WANG'S LITTLE BOY.

De Wolf Hopper's little boy "Jack" has a very high rocking horse from which he had a bad fall. His father and one or two others who were in the room at the time ran to pick him up, but before they could reach him, he jumped up, and, bowing very low, said: "Ladies and gentlemen, that is the most difficult trick I do."

A single narcissus arranged with a geranium leaf is the latest thing for finger bowls.

THE LATEST COQUETRY.

"Vanity, vanity, all is vanity!" Women, it seems, are furnished with two sets of shoes. The one for wear, the other for exhibition outside the bedroom doors. The supposed custom is to put out the soiled shoes in readiness for "boots." The actual practice is to keep the worn shoes inside and place tiny ones without, where the men, who are in the habit of scrutinizing ladies' boots, are provided a goodly show. It is even rumored that the shoes of a bride exhibited with her trousseau are several sizes smaller than those made for wear.

The New Woman.

She—How dare you kiss me, sir?
He—I'm awfully sorry, but—why did you encourage me?
She—And pray, sir, how did I encourage you?
He—Well—you took off your glasses!—L. Raven Hill.

MISS MAY ROBSON, AS SHE HAS APPEARED AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF HER LIFE.



First Success of Successful Women.

Every theatre-goer knows May Robson. Her humor has dispelled many a care. Hundreds have laughed away the blues under the influence of Mrs. Wheelies. "The Conductor's Wife," of Fathausa, in "Marse Van," of the three-legged dance in "Poet and Puppet," and later of Mrs. Treadwell in "Sowing the Wind."

She is the one pretty woman who delights in making herself hideous. To lose all sense of her own personality and become the character for the time being is her ambition. In no one of her characters is there the least resemblance to the last. The story of her make-up would make a volume. She tries, if possible, to find some living prototype. She has the rare ability to force her face to assume the attributes of a given character through the action of her mind. Were it not so the make-up, French history up to date.

Teacher—Now, Mary, can you tell me something about Marat.
Little Mary (who has been to see the play of "Charlotte Corday")—Yes, ma'am. He was the dirty gentleman that Mrs. Potter killed when he was taking a bath.
Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who even to-day studies music, says no matter what she is doing, if an organ grinder plays his organ beneath her window, she must drop all else to listen to it. The piano organ is her favorite.

Very small monograms, surrounded by a little line in the form of a circle, which ends at the top in a bow knot, are the fashion at the present time.

EMPIRE SCHOOL PLAYS.

The Empire Dramatic School gave the second of its series of afternoon performances yesterday afternoon. This was marked by three original plays, "Mamma's Waterloo," by H. Stebbins; "In Time of Strife," by Madeline Lucette Ryley, and "The Flying Wedge," written for the school by Grace Livingston Furness. Mr. Wheatcroft has rarely had the opportunity of giving three more entertaining plays. Mrs. Ryley's play was a story of the civil war, admirably constructed, with touches of genuine pathos, and one spirited scene. "The Flying Wedge," as may be taken from its title, centres about the game of football, and the flying wedge serves ingeniously to extricate two young women from the football hero's room. There is the usual travesty of a young woman reporter, who might have been forgiven if she had not pocketed a \$5 bill. The plays were unusually well acted. The casts were as follows:

"Mamma's Waterloo," a comedy in one act, by H. Stebbins.
George Grayson (the allies) Miss Anna May Cooper
Agnes Grayson, Mr. Chas. G. Stevens
Mrs. Aurelia Alimony (Napoleon) Miss Adele Block
Mr. M. Meek (fate) Mr. Louis Orvis
"In Time of Strife," a drama in one act, by Madeline Lucette Ryley.
Wilbur Garth (an artist) Mr. David Valenciourt
Mabel (his reputed daughter) Miss Florence Wilburham
Julia Ferris (a negress) Miss Elizabeth Woodson
Dr. Fordham (a Southerner) Mr. Henry Harrison
Father Malcolm (a Catholic priest) Mr. Byron Ongler
Lieut. Marden (a soldier) Mr. Franklin Hill
Sergeant Allen Mr. Louis Orvis
Scene: The living room in cottage situated in a village in Campbell County, Virginia. Period, 1862.
"The Flying Wedge," a farce, specially written for the Empire Theatre Dramatic School by Grace Livingston Furness.
Tom Harburt (captain of Yale's football team, '85, a strategist, in and out of the game) Mr. Charles G. Stevens
Percy Sydnay (his friend, Yale '94) Mr. John Schworer
Alfred Chester (their chum, Yale '94) Mr. Franklin Hill
Miss Cornelia Sydnay (a fresh young chrysanthemum bud) Miss Elizabeth French
Nellie Sydnay (her niece, and Tom's fiancée) Miss Jane Hartwar
Kate Chester (her chum, and Percy's fiancée) Miss Daisy Foster

MISS KILLIMANSEGG OUTDONE.

Poor Miss Killimansegg and her precious leg, which, after all, was only made of gold, would turn green with envy if she knew of the gem-bestudded pairs that walk Broadway.

Some time ago it was a fad to wear all the jewels of safety pinned in a glistening row outlining the corset. When Madame doffed her bodice at the dressmaker's or coiffeur's the eyes were dazzled by the display of gems, for Solomon in all his glory was indeed not arrayed like one of these.

The little chamois bag, with ribbon around the neck, hidden away in soft folds of muslin and lace, is still worn by the conservative. But the demure faces and serene eyes now seen on all the promenades are due to the long black stockings. Here is where women now stow their jewels. These stockings are made with funny little pockets at the top. The pockets are of various sizes, some long enough for the crescent and bar. Others are just little squares for the cherished rings, now considered an indispensable adjunct to a woman's toilet. Thus privately adorned a woman can go forth feeling neither fire, thistles nor the corruptibility of maida. A woman, in fact, burdened with many jewels says that these long black stockings induce a serenity of mind that she had thought only religion could impart.

YET A DUCHESS.

Miss Clara Louise Kellogg tells the following story of her introduction to one of the British aristocracy. She was very young at the time of her first trip abroad. A gentleman who felt an interest in the talented young American took her to call on the Dowager Duchess of Somerset. Miss Kellogg says that she had never before seen a Duchess, and that she fully expected the lady to come into the room attired in velvet and ermine and wearing a coronet on her head. She was quite bereft of speech when a very ordinary looking person, wearing a black bombazine gown and prunella shoes, appeared on the scene. The gentleman who had brought Miss Kellogg told the Duchess that she would be glad to sing for her, to which Her Grace responded:

"But I have no piano."
This was the finishing touch to the young singer's childish ideals regarding persons of high degree. A Duchess who wore prunella shoes and did not own a piano! Later a musicale was given by Her Grace at which Miss Kellogg sang (to the accompaniment of a hired piano), choosing for one of her songs an arrangement of Tennyson's "Tears, Idle Tears." The verses were quite new to the Duchess, who had "heard of Tennyson, but had never read anything that he had written." The next day the gentleman who had introduced Miss Kellogg, and who, by the way, was an American, brought a copy of the poems and sent it to Her Grace.

LADY PRINCIPAL OF VASSAR.



In 1890, when Mrs. J. Ryland Kendrick was offered the very important and responsible position of Lady Principal of Vassar College, she hesitated some time before handing in her letter of acceptance. Being of a naturally modest and retiring disposition, and having always enjoyed the seclusion of a happy home life, it was with some fear and misgiving that she undertook the "Home Government" of six hundred aspiring young lady students. In 1891 she was installed as the Lady Principal; she entered on her duties with a quiet dignity and gentle firmness, which has made her beloved and respected among the students and admired by the able Faculty.

When questioned as to what college she is indebted for her excellent education and superior knowledge, she smilingly replies:

"I partially regret that I had not the advantage of a thorough college education, though from girlhood I was an enthusiastic and insatiable student. Under the scholarly tutelage of Mr. Blackie, a brother of John Stuart Blackie, I delved to the very roots, as it were, of Latin, Greek, metaphysics, logic and the sciences. I became thoroughly conversant with the higher collegiate branches, you see, even before I married. After my marriage to Dr. Kendrick, I continued my scientific researches. I am a Southerner by birth, though I seem to have inherited all the restless spirit of a Northerner. My husband's death was a severe shock to me, but happily my life is so filled with duties of absorbing interest, that I find no time in which to grow gloomy." Mrs. Kendrick is of medium size, very gentle and high bred. Her dark brown hair is flecked with gray, and her eyes are clear and penetrating. The young lady students regard her as a noble, superior woman.

CYCLING NOTES.

Learning to ride a bicycle is a simple matter compared with deciding what kind of wheel to buy when one has learned. Probably the instructor has blandly blended with his exhortations not to grip the handle-bar tightly, sly hints that a particular make of wheel is superior to any other. But the learner, coyly suspecting that the advocacy is none too impartial, commences to seek advice from friends, whose opinions vary so much that perplexity is the only result. In the end choice is generally determined by accident, for it is very hard to decide on scientific grounds which is the best of many good wheels. Certainly it is greatly to the credit of the manufacturers that almost every rider of a "high-grade" wheel speaks well of it, whatever the make may be.

Although confidence must be placed in some one else's judgment about the wheel to be selected, each woman rider ought to decide for herself as to some of the fittings. In regard to which all makers give an opinion. The rider, for instance, ought to choose her saddle, her handle-bar and her pedals.

She ought to choose her saddle, because her discomfort in riding—certainly her discomfort in riding long distances—will depend largely upon it. A decision as to which of the very many saddles is the least uncomfortable can only be arrived at after experimenting. It is, therefore, well to retain the option on this matter, even after purchasing the wheel, as long as possible.

Then, as to the handle-bar, the beginner generally takes whatever happens to be on the wheel without question. But handle-bars differ very much in shape and influence very much the position, and conse-

quently the weight distribution of the rider.

If the rider has a preference for the erect attitude, so often advocated, and if she feels it necessary in order to retain her balance to extend the hands, a high, wide handle-bar is suitable. This style, however, gives the rider somewhat the appearance of a child in a high chair; and when, in the absence of ankle motion, the knees are brought well up, as they generally are by those who sit erect, the rider closely resembles a child kicking in a high chair. This style is only suited for an occasional floor.

If, instead, the beginner is willing to lean—not to bend—slightly forward and to partly support herself by the arms, which must then be straightened, a lower and narrower handle-bar must be chosen, with grips at a suitable angle and in a suitable relative position. That is to say, they should be far enough forward to allow steering room. Once properly adjusted, changing the position of the bar is not found by experienced riders to be necessary, although many of them feel that it is a pity to waste the ingenuity that has been displayed in providing adjustability.

The pedals should be chosen by the rider, because the propelling power is conveyed to the machine through them. They should fit like a shoe and they should be strong. More trouble was caused last season by bad pedals than by punctured tires. They nearly all had projecting points which were easily broken, and for some inscrutable reason many of them were nearly screwed on the wrong way, so that use caused them to uncrew and drop off. The warranties that were given covered these details in theory, but they were of little service in enabling the rider to complete a journey.

CHARACTER IN THE HANDS OF FAMOUS WOMEN.

The lady known as Queen Stella Gonzalez, to whom has been entrusted the reading of the hands of women distinguished in the world of art, letters and society for the Journal, comes from a long ancestral line skilled in divination. She is the head of a band of Spanish gypsies, and, fresh from her successes at European courts, comes to this country for the purpose of establishing a college of palmistry. It is scarcely necessary to add that the palmist knows nothing of the identity of her subjects.



THE HAND OF MRS. LILY DEVEREUX BLAKE.

This large hand shows a spirit of minutia and trifling detail. She desires everything to be absolutely true. She dives into the external and the internal world, and proceeds from detail to the whole. Her hand shows levity of mind and power of expression; also philosophy and logic. She sees with the eyes of affection. Her mind is prompt and decisive and initiative.